

## REMARKS

Upon entry of the above amendment, the claims are 1, 7, 8 and 10. The above amendment incorporates the feature of claim 6 relative to the weight proportion of the two resins (A1) and (A2) into claim 1.

The significance of this amendment will become further apparent from the remarks below.

Claims 1 and 4 to 10 have been previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Hatakeyama (U.S. 5,750,309).

This rejection is again respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as presently amended recites the relative weight proportion of resins (A1) and (A2) as being in the range of 9:1 to 1:9.

As explained on page 9 of the specification, in order to effectively prevent occurrence of surface defects in the pattern resist layer after development, the first resin and second resin should be combined in a weight proportion in a range of from 1:9 to 9:1, as now recited in claim 1 and more preferably from 4:6 to 1:9 as recited in claim 8.

There is no clear teaching in Hatakeyama relative to the mixing proportion of two or more resins, even if Hatakeyama does mention employing at least two different polymers having different molecular weights selected from among polyhydroxystyrenes of formula (I), as set forth in column 1, line 54 to column 2, line 9.

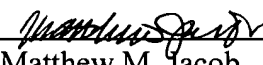
For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that the rejection of the present claims on Hatakeyama is untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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